DEEP LEARNING ON UAV VIDEOS FOR VISUAL INSPECTION OF STRUCTURAL AUDIT

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# Abstract:

**Keywords:** neural network, crack, dampness, algae, fungi, paint peel-off, unmanned aerial vehicle, drone, structural audit

# Introduction:

Construction of different infrastructures is a necessity for human life, as it brings value to the land, fulfill human needs and also develop the area around it. As the infrastructures gets old, the risk of living/working in the building increases. We can see cracks, paint peel off and dampness on the walls of old infrastructures. The infrastructure should be examined after 30 years. The process is called structural audit. For structural audit the surveyor has to go to the location and do visual inspection of the infrastructure, different chemical tests, etc. While performing visual inspection for detection of cracks, dampness, paint peel off, the process totally depends on the surveyor’s experience and knowledge. Sometimes there may be human errors. With the help of machine learning and UAVs we can reduce the human errors caused during inspection and monitor almost the whole structure.

Many systems are developed for crack detection using image processing but it takes lot of time and resources. There are many systems developed using deep learning for detecting cracks on pavements and bridges. But only cracks are not the cause for damaging the infrastructure. For visual inspection a well-trained surveyor is required. But with the help of drone technology and deep learning a person with drone operating skills can have the job done. With UAVs, capturing images of higher grounds will be much easier and developing a neural network model for detection of the defects on captured images of walls will help us reduce human error rate and speed up the process. This process will be automated and reduce human work.

# Literature review:

**Real Time Image Processing System for Detecting Infrastructure Damage: Crack [1]**

The paper states a crack detection algorithm using a small camera and an embedded board that is Jetson TX2. There are three methods for crack detection. They are laser sensor based, acceleration sensor based and camera based. The laser method has high accuracy but it is very slow in scanning and the acceleration sensor based method also has low accuracy. The camera based method is cost effective and is very good in terms of accuracy. The algorithm is divided in two parts, the image preprocessing and crack detection. In the preprocessing part color image is converted to gray scale and after that preprocessing methods are applied to remove noise from the image. In the detection part, the outline of the crack is obtained and then filtering methods are applied to the image and finally the crack is obtained. When the algorithm was tested it was 89.33% accurate and it correctly classified nine out of ten images.

**Image Processing Based Analysis of Cracks on Vertical Walls [2]**

The paper proposed an approach to identify various type of cracks and for calculating the width of the crack on walls. For crack detection the binarization algorithm is used. The image undergoes binarization and gets converted to a grayscale image and then to binary image by setting a threshold value. The obtained binary image undergoes edge detection and the width of the crack is calculated. Due to issues in binarization caused by changing user parameters (sensitivity and window size) the cracks sometime remain undetected. For increasing the accuracy of the binarization, preprocessing is done for removing the distortion in the image and then the image is converted to grayscale. A hybrid image processing algorithm is applied on the preprocessed image with two new user parameters, they are Pw and Pl.By using these parameters, two binary images will be obtained and they will undergo the edge detection algorithm. This approach has been tested and compared with Savola’s method and it gives better results than traditional binarization. Cracks visible to human eyes are still not classified by the hybrid approach.

**Inspection, Identification and Repair Monitoring of Cracked Concrete structure – An application of Image processing [3]**

The paper proposed an image processing algorithm for detecting cracks and using UAVs for capturing images. The algorithm is as follows: after capturing the image 1) The RGB image is converted to grayscale image to reduce the intensity of the image and to represent the image in single channel. 2) Void detection is done to find any voids present on the surface cause by air bubbles or water droplets between the concrete. This is done using MATLAB. 3) Image stitching is done to merge the different images captured by UAVs from different positions so as to get a clear vision of the crack. 4) Next step is median filtering followed by edge detection for which CANNY and SOBEL filters are used. It is done to reduce the pixels to process the image faster. 5) Texture analysis is carried out using SOBEL and CANNY to filter out a specific color from the image. 6) Then a binary image is formed and then thresholding is done to remove skeleton pixels from the image. This method can be used to detect cracks in chimney, etc.

**Detection and analysis of large-scale WT blade surface cracks based on UAV-taken images [4]**

Traditional method for defect detection on the wind turbine is by using telescope and sensors which are very costly and have low efficiency and take lots of time. This paper suggest an approach using image processing algorithm and UAVs. UAV is just used for capturing the images of WT. The algorithms is as follows: Wiener filter is applied on the image remove the motion blur. An adaptive median filtering method is used for removing the noise from the image. After these steps are performed the image losses some quality, so to regain the quality enhancement algorithms are used to the image for better analysis. Using this approach there is an improvement in the crack detection as that of the traditional method. Comparing the proposed method with the extended Haar cascade classification method, the proposed method analysis crack with more detail.

**Automatic Pavement Crack Detection Using HMRF-EM Algorithm [5]**

The paper proposed an algorithm for crack detection on pavement using the adaptive line detector and hiddenMarkov random field model and its expectation-maximization algorithm. First step of the proposed method is to preprocess the original image using band pass filter method to reduce the noise in the image and then an adaptive line detector is used due to changing region size and direction. The second step is to use the HMRF-EM algorithm to increase the accuracy to label the data. The labels obtained in this step are also consisting of noise. Third step uses start and end points of the labeled data and cluster them on relative position so to get the true end points. When compared with other methods the proposed method is much more accurate and has a Recall of 94.54%, Precision of 90.89% and F-measure of 93.04% which is an improvement over other method.

**Crack Detection in Concrete Elements from RGB Pictures using Modified Line Detection Kernels [6]**

This paper proposed a modified line detection kernel algorithm to detect crack. Main aim of the paper is to find cracking patterns in concrete from the image captured. Necessary steps are digital image processing to reduce the noise and image sharpening, spatial filtering, feature detection, hypothesis and then the algorithm which is as follows: 1) Edge detection is carried out to reduce the pixels. 2) The pixels obtained from edge detection are yet not the crack pixels, to get the crack pixels we have to perform mean detection. 3) In the orientation kernel step, the group of pixels which are dark but not crack are removed by passing it through modified line kernel. 4) In angle detection the pixel matrix is multiplied element wise with kernel. 5) Calculating the width of the crack. After applying this algorithm, the results are not good. This method works very well on plain surface but not on rough surfaces.

**Track Crack Detection Method in Complex Environment [7]**

This paper states an algorithm for crack detection in rail slabs using image processing. The sample image is preprocessed to remove the noise, uneven brightness. Then the image size is scaled to 25% of the original size. There are 3 types of cracks they are deformation, crack and surface damage. To classify them edge detection algorithm is used, but normal edge detection is not enough so CANNY edge detection algorithm is used to extract information from the preprocessed image. After performing these steps we get three characteristics: 1) crack is long, 2) relatively large length and width and 3) center ratio is large. These characteristics of the image are calculated by the algorithm. With the values of the three characteristics, we determine which crack it is. When the experiment was performed the accuracy was 87.73%. Total 220 images were captured and used for testing and 193 images were correctly identified.

**Robust Image-Based Crack Detection In Concrete Structure Using Multi-scale Enhancement And Visual Features [8]**

This paper states an algorithm for detection of crack using image processing. As the captured image has low contrast and noise. For making the image more enhanced, a multi-scale enhancement method is used. The method uses a MESG algorithm. After this step proposed algorithm is applied as follows: 1) Taking this enhance image apply SOBEL filter on the image. 2) Then obtain the binary image. 3) Morphological processing is done to remove noise and join parts of cracks. 4) refine the obtained image so that cracks are clearer. The proposed algorithm is compared with OSMA and PMM algorithm. The dataset selected for the testing purpose has 200 concrete images of dimension 4000 × 6000 pixels captured at NSH of CMU. It performed very well against OSMA and slightly well against PMM and got a score of 94.22% on average TRP.

**Deep Learning For Semantic Segmentation Of UAV Videos [9]**

The traditional approaches use image segmentation deep learning methods and extend it to frames of video. This does not take into account the temporal features of subsequent frames. This paper states video segmentation method using a combination of FCN (Full Convolutional Network) and Conv-LSTM (Convolutional Long Short Term Memory). The architecture stated in this paper’s methodology consist of FCN instead of CNN (Convolutional Neural Network) because FCN can be used for arbitrary sized inputs and it generates pixel level segmentation output. The input videos are captured using UAV (Unmanned Aerial Vehicle). The input video frames are fed into FCN and the output segmentations of FCN are grouped into blocks of 4 frames with 3 overlapping frames in consecutive blocks. These blocks are then fed to Conv-LSTM. Conv-LSTM has a loop in its network which allows previous state features to be used in the next frames. The results of this paper show that using a combination of FCN and Conv-LSTM increases the accuracy of almost all classes.

**Effective Object Detection From Traffic Camera Videos [10]**

This paper states the work done by a group of researchers for the NVIDEA AI Challenge. This challenge consisted of video recording of a traffic intersection. The objective was to classify different kinds of four wheelers, 2 wheelers, pedestrians, etc. This paper compared 2 deep learning methods namely, R-FCN (Region-based Full Convolutional Network) and Faster RCNN (Region-based Convolutional Neural Network). This paper used the dataset provided by NVIDEA which consisted of 8 hour length video with annotated frames for training and testing. The transformations this paper used was flipping of frames. The architecture used in this paper consists of a RPN (Region Proposal Network) which gives score to regions in the frames. These region scores are then passed to the above 2 deep learning networks. The results show that R-FCN performed better than Faster RCNN. Also, R-FCN has pixel level classification design which can be easily applied to any general detection task. The results were not able to differentiate similar appearing classes (like variants of four wheelers). This results can be improved by using temporal features and using more dataset and variance.

**Neural Network-based Vehicle And Pedestrian Detection For Video Analysis System [11]**

This paper compares 3 neural network architectures for vehicle and pedestrian detection. The three neural network architectures compared are R-CNN (Region-based Convolutional Neural Network), YOLO (You Only Look Once), and SSD (Single Shot multibox Detector). The parameters used for comparison were AUC (Area Under precision-recall Curve), mAP (mean Average Precision), and processing time. Different variants/networks of these 3 architectures were used testing (Faster R-CNN + Resnet-101, Faster R-CNN + InceptionResnet-2, YOLOv3, SSD + MobileNet-1, SSD + MobileNet-2). Results show that Faster-RCNN performs better in terms of AUC and mAP. The drawback of this architecture is that RCNN uses grids of region whereas other 2 methods process the entire image at once. Thus the processing time of Faster-RCNN method is higher than other 2 methods. This processing time is crucial for real time processing where the accuracy requirements cannot always be met.

**Object Detection And Tracking Based On Convolutional Neural Networks For High-resolution Optical Remote Sensing Video [12]**

This paper states a method for object detection in high resolution remote sensing videos using neural networks. The considered architectures were YOLO (You Only Look Once) and Faster R-CNN (Region-based Convolutional Neural Network). Faster R-CNN was selected for this paper because it produces better result for smaller sized objects which are present in remote sensing video. The dataset used in this paper is satellite videos capturing aircraft and other similar objects. This paper uses sub sampling strategy which uses sliding window mechanism. This sub sampling strategy allows for adapting to different resolution images. The proposed architecture uses temporal features of previous frame. The RoI (Region of Interest) generated for the previous frame is fused with current frame’s RoI. In this way, the current frame’s RoI is passed on to the next frame. This temporal feature has improved the results as compared to Faster R-CNN.

**Object Detection On Video Images Based On RFCN And GROWCUT Algorithm [13]**

This paper focuses on automation of picking objects from inventory in the logistics industry due to decrease in the productive age population in Japan. As there are a lot of different objects in logistics industry, the object detection algorithm is required in the robot vision. The dataset used by this paper is PASCAL Visual Object Classes 2007 dataset consisting of large number of classes. The algorithm this paper uses is R-FCN (Region-based Full Convolutional Network) for object detection. After object detection, the paper’s methodology uses Grow cut algorithm for segmentation. This segmentation refines the bounding box produced by R-FCN to actual shape of the object using background and foreground seeding method. This paper uses Kinect for Windows v2 (Kinect v2) for capturing RGB images and depth images. This RGBD channels acts as the input. And thus, by using refined segmentation and depth information, robot vision can measure the depth of the object for picking. The mean accuracy precision obtained by this paper is 67%.

**Object Detection, Classification And Tracking Methods For Video Surveillance: A Review [14]**

This paper states various methods of object detection, classification and tracking of objects in videos. The detection methods are Motion-based Object Detection (including Background Subtraction, Frame Differencing, and Optical Flow Method) and Appearance-based Object Detection (including Template Matching and Feature Extraction). The classification of the detected objects can be done based on 4 attributes: shape and size, color, texture, and motion. This paper also states methods of tracking of the classified objects. This paper compares the different methods and sub-methods mentioned above with their advantages and disadvantages.

**Panorama Stitching, Moving Object Detection And Tracking In UAV Videos [15]**

This paper states methodology for panorama stitching of frames obtained by UAV (Unmanned Aerial Vehicle). The subsequent frames are compared and merged to form a continuous panoramic image. The paper also states object detection methodology using lq-estimator which is the normalization function comparing features of the image. This method suffers from outliers and hence tuning is required for normalizing function. The detected object is then tracked in the subsequent frames using thresholding. The results show that the methods mentioned in this paper works well for both smooth textured and rough textured images.

**Video Object Detection For Tractability With Deep Learning Method [16]**

This paper states object detection methods in video dataset using deep learning methods for traceability. Annotated database is constructed first marking the object of interest and training the model off line. The architecture used in this paper is CNN (Convolutional Neural Network). Once trained, the model is deployed online and objects are detected and traced using Gaussian background modelling and other non-parametric modelling. The results show that this deep learning method is suitable for downloaded videos as well as real time video analysis.

**Video Predictive Object Detector [17]**

This paper states a methodology for Predictive Object Detection (POD) using deep learning techniques. The architectures used in this paper uses YOLOv2 (You Only Look Once version 2) and LSTM (Long Short Term Memory). The YOLO architecture has time benefits as it processes the image only once. The LSTM architecture is used to incorporate temporal features of previous frames in the video. The paper suggests 2 different architectures PODv1 and PODv2 which differs in the feature mapping stage. The PODv2 gives better results.

**Video Stream Analysis In Clouds An Object Detection And Classification Framework For High Performance Video Analytics [18]**

This paper proposes a method for video stream analysis using cloud computing for object detection and classification. The traditional methods are time consuming even after using GPU cores as the resolution of today’s cameras are increasing. This paper states that saving the input video data on the cloud, decoding the videos, and moving operator function code to the computing nodes on the cloud can give scalability and time benefits. The nodes on the cloud have GPU cores thereby collectively improving the time required for analysis of videos.

**UAV Autonomous Target Search Based on Deep Reinforcement Learning in Complex Disaster Scene [19]**

The proposed system is about designing UAV autonomous path using deep enforcement learning in order to rescue people in post disaster. This paper proposed a snake game to automate path for drone. Snake body is used to represent drone and hotspot is used to denote target to be searched. Main focus is to create a strategic agent that will be able to play as many game as possible. System uses Markov decision to represent agent with state action and reward state, Q-learning, Markov Decision process, Depth Q-Learning (DQL). DQL consist of multiple state as input and actions as output that need to be perform. State include raw picture frames (240×240 pixel images) performing prepossessing to reduce dimension, RGB image is converted to grayscale, used Q learning with neural network in order to find small paths autonomously.

**UAV-Based Situational Awareness System Using Deep Learning [20]**

The proposed system mainly focuses on situational awareness system implemented using UAV which is very useful in many areas like search and rescue, surveillance, disaster response etc. Designed a Personal-Action-Locator (PAL) system uses Visual camera mounted to UAV, intelligent processing to detect people, their action, map their location on PAL. Main component is deep learning trained to detect multi-person and action recognition. The Pixel2GPS converter that estimates the GPS position of persons by image processing. CNN is used for object detection and recognition. PAL deployed on Jetson TX2 (8 GB RAM), that we use as the onboard computer for the DJI Matric 100. Used DJI Phantom 4 and its built-in gimbal equipped camera to scan a target area. As a result human detection, we obtained a map of 60.9% in the surveillance test, as compared to 85.0% in the target.

**Deep Learning-Based Super-Resolution Reconstruction and Marker Detection for Drone Landing [21]**

This system proposed a deep learning based SR reconstruction and marker detection for drone landing. In SR reconstruction low resolution image frame 320 × 240 pixels is captured. Then this is feeded to the module that combines the SR reconstruction and Marker detection CNN for detecting landing area. The input image is feeded to CNN with DCSCN which produced high resolution image. Combining and training multiple CNN network with is difficult so the proposed system focuses on two network separately. DCSACN achieve more efficient computation, uses 1\*1 CNN layer, input feature map of 80 × 80 × 410. R-CNN exhibits high performance in terms of object detection, process 200 frame per second. YOLO is an alternative that exhibits 10x high performance than R-CNN. Snapdragon 835 and Jetson board TX2 tool used. The self-collected dataset of low-resolution marker images and our trained models for SR reconstruction and marker detection are made available to other researchers.

**Autonomous Navigation Of UAV In Large-scale Unknown Complex Environment With Deep Reinforcement Learning [22]**

The proposed system focuses onincrementally building a map of the unknown environment and use it to localize. The model includes Deep Reinforcement Learning (DRL), Reinforcement Learning (RL), Markov Decision Processes (MDP), Partially Observable Markov Decision Processes (POMDP) which helps in navigation in complex environment. Recurrent Deterministic Policy Gradient (RDPG) and fast RDPG algorithm helps in navigation. There are certain limitations associated with proposed system. Firstly we need to test this model in real environment so it includes complex obstacles like wires, and tress that is challenging.

**Real-time UAV Detection based on Deep Learning Network [23]**

The proposed system mainly focuses on deep learning based YOLO (You Only Look Once) model for detecting UAV. YOLO model takes input image, resize input image to 416\*416, divide image into 5\*5 grid, object center fall on grid, if yes then responsibility of grid to detect object, predict B’s bounding boxes, calculate bounding box x, y, z, h confident, predict conditional probability, determine bounding box confidence score. Else undefined object. YOLOv2 is 92.10% accurate and YOLOv3 is 95.20% which is better but YOLOv3 took longer training time. Mean average precision (MAP) is also calculated for both YOLOv2 and YOLOV3. Deep learning used in YOLO model for real UAV detection.

**A Deep Learning Approach to UAV Image Multilabeling [24]**

This paper mainly focuses on generating multilabeling image using deep learning approach. Input frame passed to CNN module which divide image into equal frame size further multilayer perceptron (MLP) is used for classification. GoogLeNet used to generates a feature vector of size equal to 1024. Otsu’s Thresholding Algorithm is used to find hypothesis between 2 classes. A RBFNN model is trained for the classification task. AlexNet-RBFNN and GoogLeNet-RBFNN used for feature extraction. GoogLeNet-RBFNN and AlexNet-RBFNN score 79.3% and 78.4% of average accuracy respectively for data set 1, and 77.4% and 76.9% of average accuracy for data set 2 for given data set.

**Strength Analysis of Buildings using Image Processing and SHM Principles [25]**

The system proposed includes inspection methods that is vital for diagnosis and maintenance of structures but we cannot depend upon conventional strategies of detection. Manual methods that are often used are error prone and needs considerable time and effort. Conventional damage detection approaches does not produce better results in damage detection. So the need of automation of visual inspections increased efficiency in damage assessment.

**Crack Detection and Classification in Asphalt Pavement Images Using Deep Convolution Neural Network [26]**

This paper is about a study that proposed a deep convolution neural network (DCNN) as a detection of asphalt pavement crack that is capable to detect and classify the pavement crack robustly when dealing with complex background image. A method to detect and classify asphalt pavement crack using deep CNN is proposed. This proposed deep CNN architecture composed of eight layers consist of three convolution layer, three pooling layer and two fully connected layer. The network is trained using stochastic gradient (SGD) training algorithm.

Crack detection and classification comprises steps – 1) Image acquisition, 2) image processing and labeling 3) crack detection and 4) crack classification. In order to explore how the size of input image affects deep CNN with respect to detection and classification performance, different sizes and grid scale are adopted in the architecture. The network achieved overall recall, precision and accuracy on the 1000 testing images are 98.0%, 99.4% and 99.2% respectively.

**An Extraction and Classification Algorithm for Concrete Cracks Based on Machine Vision [27]**

To solve the problem of large errors in extraction and the difficulty in classifying crack images in health monitoring of civil engineering structures, a new classification algorithm of concrete crack extraction based on machine vision is proposed in this paper.

Nonlinear grayscale transformation, improved OSTU threshold segmentation and then bifurcation points are all used in algorithm. The obtained features are used as input to train a support vector machine classifier, which is then used to perform crack classification This algorithm had a good ability to extract cracks with obvious contours, but had difficulty with fine cracks, used a multiscale linear filtering approach based on the Hessian matrix to enhance the crack area and then determined the threshold interval according to the maximum entropy of the image histogram to obtain the crack binarization segmentation result.

**Crack and Noncrack Damage Automatic Classification from Concrete Surface Images using Broad Network Architecture [28]**

In this paper, an automatic crack damage classification method using broad network architecture, it extracts feature nodes from input raw data by convolution function or other mapping transformation, flattened enhancement nodes are combined with feature nodes to construct broad network architecture, finally a decision threshold is set to obtain a binary classification output. The Principle of Broad Learning Algorithma broad network is flattenedd in the width instead of the deep structure by multiple feature nodes and enhancement nodes. The dataset consists of 40000 concrete images with crack (positive) and noncrack (negative). Each class has 20000 images with 227×227×3 RGB pixels. This method avoids hyper parameter adjustment and complicated deep structure.

**Application of Internet of Things Technology and Convolutional Neural Network Model in Bridge Crack Detection [29]**

This paper defines the damage structure of the bridge structure as a comprehensive perception of the damage situation of the structure through the information sensing equipment, the ubiquitous interconnection of structural security impact factors (load, displacement, service life, use environment, etc.). Convolution Neural Network (CNN) the set of small neurons in the convolution neural network is connected with a small region of the input image. Application of convolution neural network in classification of bridge cracks consist image preprocessing, the establishment of convolution neural network model, and the example analysis. Studied a digital and intelligent bridge crack detection method to improve the efficiency of bridge safety diagnosis and reduced the risk factor. Firstly, the collected bridge crack pictures were preprocessed, the bridge crack convolution neural network classification model was established, and the model was simulated and trained using MATLAB. The bridge crack classification was obtained. This method could effectively solve the problems of low fracture diagnosis efficiency and high risk factor in domestic fractures.

**A Deep Convolutional Neural Network for Semantic Pixel-Wise Segmentation of Road and Pavement Surface Cracks [30]**

In this paper propose a deep fully convolutional neural network to perform pixel-wise classification of surface cracks on road and pavement images. The network consists of an encoder layer which reduces the input image to a bank of lower level feature maps. This is followed by a corresponding decoder layer which maps the encoded features back to the resolution of the input data using the indices of the encoder pooling layers to perform efficient up-sampling. This paper presents an algorithm for semantic segmentation of road and pavement surface cracks using a Convolutional Neural Network, namely U-Net. The algorithm is trained, validated and tested on the publicly available CrackForest. Dataset which consists of 118 images of surface cracks on pavement and road surfaces, taken with a hand-held camera. The patch based training method proposed here will be extended to include augmentations of the input data in an attempt to equally represent cracks running at multiple angles.

**Road Crack Detection Using Deep Convolutional Neural Network and Adaptive Thresholding [31]**

Crack detection is performed by either certified inspectors or structural engineers. This task is, time-consuming, subjective and labor-intensive. In this paper, a novel road crack detection algorithm which is based on deep learning and adaptive image segmentation is proposed. In these experiments, the proposed deep neural network is trained on an NVIDIA GTX 1080 Ti GPU1, which has 3584 CUDA cores and 11 GB GDDR5X memory. The GPU memory bandwidth is 484 GB/s. The dataset utilized for training the proposed network was created by the researchers from Middle East Technical University. The dataset contains 40000 RGB images (resolution: 227\*227). The number of positive and negative images are both 20000. The experimental results illustrate that our network can classify images with an accuracy of 99.92%, and the cracks can be successfully extracted from the images using our proposed thresholding algorithm.

**Design Application of Deep Convolutional Neural Network for Vision-Based Defect Inspection [32]**

In this paper, a design application of DCNN (Deep Convolutional Neural Network) is considered and developed for vision-based defect inspection. As a trial test, three kinds of DCNNs are designed, implemented and tested to inspect small defects, such as, crack, burr, protrusion, chipping and spot phenomena seen in the manufacturing process of resin molded articles. An image generator is also implemented to systematically generate range of relevant deformed version of similar images for training.

The DCNN based design application is described to evaluate the usefulness for image defect detection. Setting parameters for the training of the DCNN. The training was conducted using single PC with a Core i7 CPU and a GPU (NVIDIA GeForce GTX 1060).

The designed DCNNs are trained using the generated images and then evaluated through classification experiments. The proposed DCNN design application is planned to be applied to actual physical inspection processes.

**A Bridge Crack Image Detection and Classification Method Based On Climbing Robot [33]**

Develop a bionic climbing robot which can climb on rough surface due to its smart structure and bionic design. After loading simple camera, wall images can be acquired wirelessly in real time, which is suitable for health detection of bridge structure. But, due to the small load of the robot, both the size and precision of its camera are limited, which leads to the lower quality of obtained pictures. The goal of this system is to obtain crack pictures of bridge surface, use algorithms to make up for the deficiency of hardware precision through a series of image processing methods, divide complete crack samples. Based on the visual and geometrical characteristics, a decision-tree-based multiclass support vector machine algorithm is applied to classify crack target.

**Grid-based Pavement Crack Analysis Using Deep Learning [34]**

In this paper, segmention of the pavement crack images into different scales of grids is done. We choose suitable scale of grids to segment image. We design the structure of CNN to detect pavement crack. To classify the type of crack, we utilize principal component analysis (PCA) to calculate the distribution of grids. After analysis the distribution of grids, we achieve the pavement crack classification an image is cut into many non-overlapping grids, and then we use CNN to detect the existence of crack. We only keep the grids that containing crack so that the skeleton of crack can be preserved. The pavement images are collected by author along the Youyi Avenue in Wuhan city. There were 510 pavement images which including three kinds of crack pictures and non-crack pictures. Took 30000 grid images as training set images. The rest of images were testing set images. The correct rate of classification is increased compared with pavement crack classification using neural network.

**A Genetic Algorithm for Convolutional Network Structure Optimization for Concrete Crack Detection [35]**

GA has been applied to a variable depth CNN. This means that in the proposed method, the GA evolves the network depth, the layer size, and the hyper parameters of the network. The size of layers in the CNN affects the level of details that are recognized by the CNN, a case where GAs have excelled previously. The proposed method utilizes a GA for CNN structure optimization. This method evolved several parameters that dictate the structure of a CNN, including: number of convolution layers, size of convolution filters, and number of convolution filters used in each layer. Evolving CNN structures produces high-performance networks that have higher classification accuracy than the state-of-the-art network when tested on images of concrete containing cracks. This process allows for a small training set, since mass training data is sometimes difficult to obtain in real-world applications. The process also performs the search for network structures automatically, which removes the need for a deep knowledge of the features being described and the neural network design process. Visual results indicate that the generated networks perform.

# Gap analysis:

[1-8, 14-15, 25, 27, 33] have stated digital image processing technique for crack detection. Instead of using image processing, using deep learning techniques can automatically learn complex features that need not be hardcoded and requires less computation once the model is trained. [1-2, 5-8, 10-12, 14, 16-17, 25-32, 34-35] papers’ methods require manual capturing of images or automatic capturing by fixing the camera in one location. Using Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) for capturing input data would be useful to capture dynamic data from human inaccessible areas. [1-8, 20-35] papers are working on image data. We can extend these work to video data. [1-8, 26-31, 33-35] papers are detecting only cracks in their work. But there are other structural defects in the infrastructure that can be detected visually including dampness of wall and peeling off of paint. [9-24] papers are working on other fields of image and video segmentation. We can extend their work in the field of structural audit.

# Problem statement:

The proposed system should be able to capture video images using UAV, which will be processed for detection of cracks, dampness and paint peel-off using neural network as a part of visual inspection while doing structural audit of infrastructures.

# Proposed Solution:

**1. Dataset**

This paper is using a custom dataset, as the dataset for all structural defects has not been created before. Our dataset consists of 4 classes i.e cracked walls, damp walls, walls with paint peel off, and walls with no defects. We captured the images from our mobile phones in the VJTI campus, Mumbai. The images are of varying dimension as 3 students were capturing images in different orientations from different mobile phones. These captured images contained various wall defects and other noises in the same photo. Hence we manually cropped the samples for each class from these images. Each cropped sample were resized to 256\*256 pixels. We are using RGB images as many important features of our classes can be easily captured if we use 3 channels of image instead of grayscale images.

**2. Preprocessing:**

Figure 1 shows the block diagram of the pre processing steps that we used.

1. Each of the 4 classes contain unequal amount of cropped images. Pick random 625 samples for each class from the cropped samples. Each class has an equal amount of samples of 625 images which makes the dataset not skewed to any class.

2. Our 4 classes are not orientation dependent, i.e. even after flipping, rotating orthogonally or transposing on any diagonal, the class would not change. For e.g. crack if rotated by 90deg would still remain a crack. Thus we apply 7 non-distorting transformations (it does not add any synthetic pixels to the images) to the images. Those 7 non-distorting transformations are as follows:

i. Rotate image by 90 degrees

ii. Rotate image by 180 degrees

iii. Rotate image by 270 degrees

iv. Flip image horizontally

v. Flip image vertically

vi. Transpose image

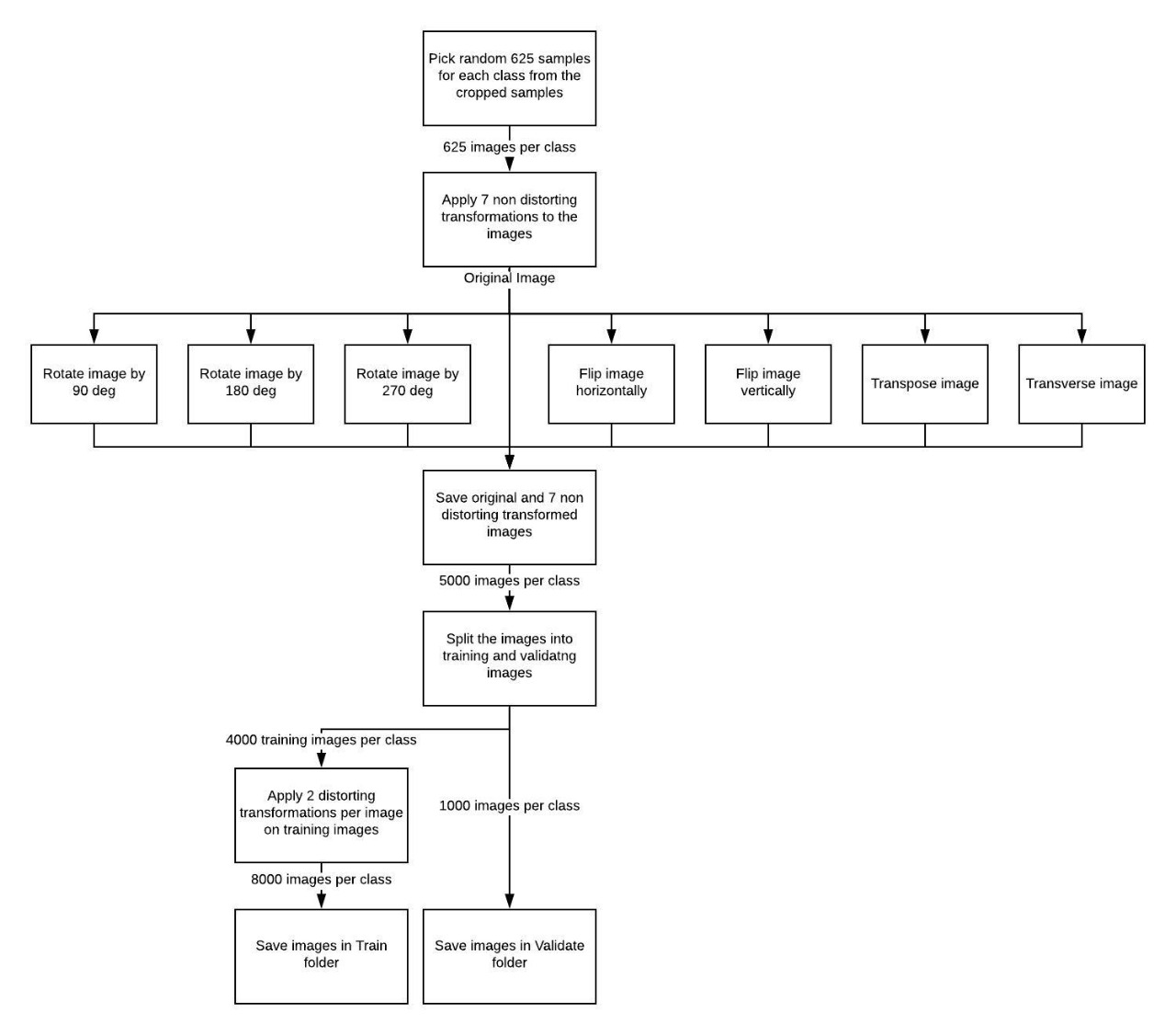
vii. Transverse image

3. Save those original images and their 7 non distorted transfomation images. So we scale up the dataset size by a factor of 8 resulting to a total of 8\*625 = 5000 images per class.

4. Split that images into training as well as validating images. Here we are using an 80:20 ratio. So 4000 images are used for training purpose while 1000 images are used for validation.

5. In the process of training, we are applying distorting transformations so that our ML model does not overfit and generalizes on unseen output. We are generating 2 random distorting transformations per image. The total training images per class then results to 4000\*2 = 8000 images per class.

6. Save both training images and validate images in train folder and validate folders respectively.

****

**Fig 1:** Block Diagram for Preprocessing Steps

**3. Model**

As the structural audit domain is not explored much before, we experimented on a variety of model architectures including Transfer Learning, Neural Networks, and Convolutional Neural Network.

**3.1 Transfer Learning**

Training a model from scratch with a small dataset and getting very good accuracy is not always the case. So we tried to increase the size of our dataset by using available similar datasets on the Internet. This is one approach; other approach is to use someone else’s model which is already trained on a very large dataset. This can be achieved by transfer learning. Transfer learning (TL) is a research problem in machine learning (ML) that focuses on storing knowledge gained while solving one problem and applying it to a different but related problem. We tried using transfer learning for our problem, the pre-trained model we used is ResNet-50. This model is trained on CIFAR-10 dataset. The dataset is made of animals, vehicles, fruits, insects, man-made objects, etc. And our dataset consists of crack, paint peel-off, fungus and plain wall. The requirement for transfer learning to give good results is that our problem should be similar to the problem on which the model is trained. Our problem is not similar to the ResNet-50. We trained for 30 epochs by using the ‘conv5\_block3\_2\_relu’ layer output as our convolution layer and with one dense layer. When we trained the model we got a training accuracy of 98% but validation accuracy of 25%. Due to this behavior the model predicted every image as paint peel-off.

**3.2 Neural Network**

As the transfer learning was not giving good accuracy, we had to make our own model architecture from scratch. We started with Neural Networks. We tried different architectures by changing the number of hidden layers and number of nodes in those hidden layers. As we are doing the final predictions on video frames, complicated models with more hidden layers and nodes will increase the time required for forward propogation through model, hence we kept these numbers reasonably low. Even with Neural Network, we got a maximum of 60% training accuracy and 63% validation accuracy after training the model for 10 epochs. This hinted us that the model is underfitting and we need to add more complex features in the model.

**3.3 Convolutional Neural Network (CNN)**

After trying Neural Network, we came to know that we needed more complex features for the model to learn. Hence we tried CNN as there are many pattern features of our data that can be captured using CNN models.

Convolutional Neural Networks are a type of Deep Learning technique in which the model tries to capture different features, shapes, edges, etc. in the input image. A typical architecture of a CNN includes convolution layers at the beginning and fully connected dense layers at the end. The convolutional layers extract features from the input, and the dense layers combine these features to learn to recognize the classes in the dataset.

Like other Deep Learning techniques, CNN also involves Forward Propagation and Backward Propagation.

**3.3.1 Forward Propagation**

Convolutional layer uses a kernel to convolve the entire input image. For each convolving step, the kernel weights are elementwise multiplied to the part of the input image that the current convolution window is at and the entire products are summed up. This can be mathematically represented as follows

Here represents the input image and represents the kernel matrix. The resulting matrix is of the size where and are the number of rows and number of columns in the input image and is the size of the kernel.

Max pooling is a sample-based discretization process. This includes a pooling kernel which convolves upon the output of the convolutional layer and calculates the maximum of all the numbers present in the pooling window. Max pooling is also characterizd by the stride which indicates the and i.e. the number of pixels to move the pooling window in each of the x and y directions. Max pooling helps to reduce the computational cost as the size of the input of the next layer is reduced and also it prevents the model to be over fitted.

After passing the input from all convolutional and pooling layers, the input is flattened to a 1D array and then it is passed to the fully connected dense layers. The dense layers applies linear or non linear transformations based on the activation function used. The linear transformation can be represented as

Here represents the matrix of the weights associated with that layer. represents the input of that layer and is the bias matrix. Non linear transformation (softmax which is mostly used for multi labelled classifications) is applied to this linear transformation output which can be defined by the following formula

**3.3.2 Back Propagation**

During the training, the weights of the model are randomly initialized and thus the forward propagation gives erronous answers. Based on this errors, we find the weights in the model that are causing the highest error and update the weights according to the contribution that they are doing in the error. This process is called the backward propagation. Mathematically this same concept can be represented as the rate of change of error with respect to the weights which can be calculated by following formula

Here represents the error in the next layer (or output error if the current layer is the last layer), represents the output value that the current layer with activation produced while forward propagation, represents the output of the layer before applying activation function on it. is the weight of the current layer. For the last layer the error is just the squared difference between actual and predicted output.

This when derivated with respect to to output , we get

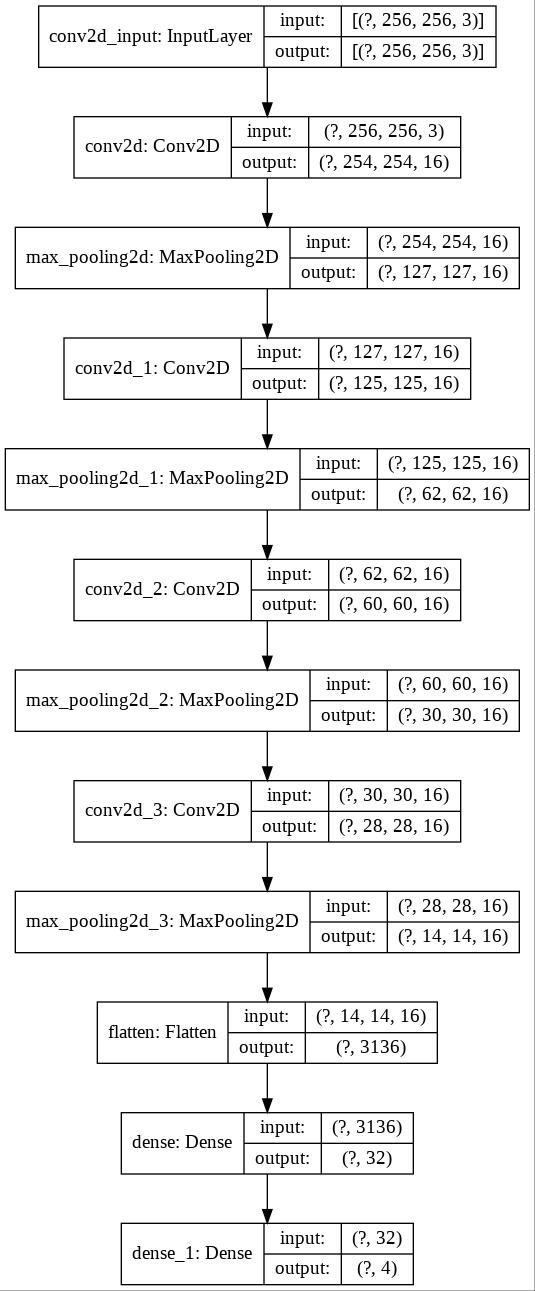
Now we need to calculate the derivative of the output with respect to the linear transformation output which is just the derivative of the softmax function. Next we need to calculate the derivative of with respect to the weights

Thus by calculating all the above partial derivatives, we can use chain rule and calculate the partial derivative of error with respect to the weights. This derivative term is used to update the weights of the fully connected layers in the gradient descent algorithm as follows

The backpropagation of the convolutional layers is similar but instead of weights, the convolutional layers consist of filter matrix.

**3.3.3 Architecture**

For the architecture, we again tried to tune hyperparameters like number of convolutional layers, number of filters in each convolutional layers and number of dense layers. By trial and error we got the architecture, illustrated in Fig 2, which consists of 4 convolutional layers with 16 filters each and a kernel size of 3\*3. We used Max Pooling of 2\*2 after each convolutional layers. We added one hidden Dense layer before the output layer containing 32 nodes. The input layer matches the dimensions of the dataset i.e. (256, 256, 3) where 3 is the number of channels in JPG images. The output layer consists of 4 nodes as we have 4 classes in our dataset.



**Fig 2:** Convolutional Neural Network Architecture

After training the model for 15 epochs, we got the following results for accuracy and loss which we plotted in Fig 3 and 4.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| C:\Users\admin\Desktop\content\model\plots\accuracy_vs_epochs.jpg | C:\Users\admin\Desktop\content\model\plots\loss_vs_epochs.jpg |
| **Fig 3:** Accuracy vs Epochs | **Fig 4:** Loss vs Epochs |

As we can see from the plots, that the model is slightly overfitting at epoch 14 but the validation accuracy in this case is still 91% which was a great increase from earlier attempts. Now as we had the model ready, we used this model to predict classes on frames of videos captured using UAVs.

**4. Video Prediction:**

Figure 5 shows the block diagram showing the steps for ML prediction on video frames.

1. Video captured by the camera is given as an input to the program. As video is a collection of images (frames), the input video file is divided into frames and loaded in the memory.

2. Loop until all the frames are processed by our program.

2.1. For each frame, the dimensions of the image will be rounded down to values which are multiples of 256. This is done because, the dimensions of sliding window are 256×256 pixels and we want to apply predict function on the complete image.

2.2. Create a new result image. The dimensions of the new image are twice the shorter dimension and the same longer dimension of the original frame so that the input frame and resulting model prediction can be shown side by side. We paste the resized image at the top left corner of the result image and the remaining half image is for the model predictions generated by the program.

2.3. Loop until the sliding window mechanism has finished processing all rows.

2.3.1. Initially the window will begin at the left edge of the current row on the image.

2.3.2. Loop until all columns are processed.

2.3.2.1. Crop the image present in the sliding window.

2.3.2.2. Pass this cropped image to the model to predict what class the window belongs to.

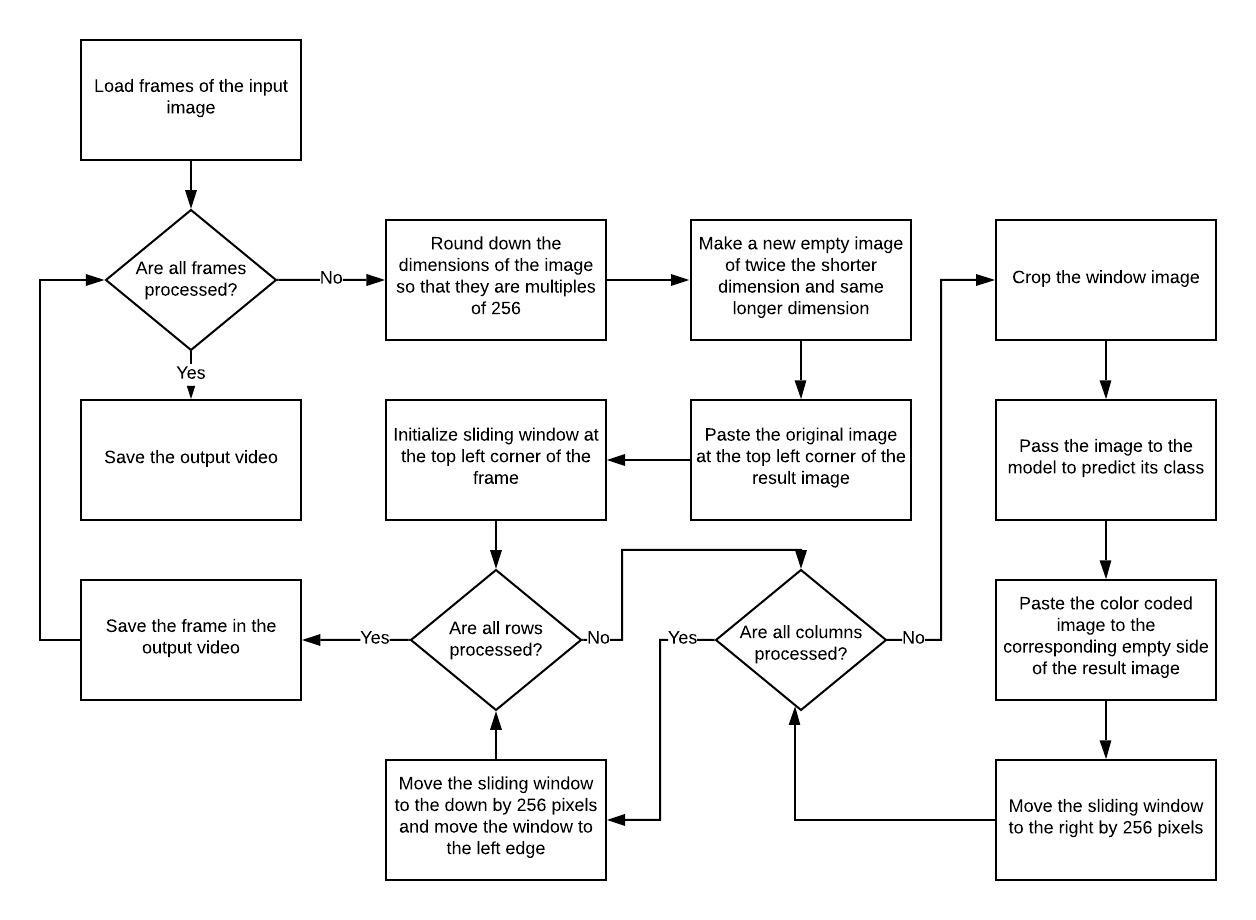
2.3.2.3. Paste the color coded prediction output to the corresponding part of the remaining half of the result image.

2.3.2.4. Move the sliding window to the right by 256 pixels.

2.3.3. Once all columns are processed move the sliding window down by 256 pixels.

2.4. Once all rows are processed, the frame is completely processed and the result image can be saved as a frame in the output video.

3. Once all frames are processed then we save the resulting frames by converting them to a single video at a given path.



**Fig 5:** Block diagram for classes prediction on video

# Results and Analysis:

**1. Training time:** Our modeltook 90 seconds per epoch and total time of training was 22.5 minutes for 15 epochs.

**2. Accuracy:** Validation accuracy is 91% for 15 epochs

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **precision** | **recall** | **f1-score** | **support** |
| **Crack** | 0.84 | 0.97 | 0.90 | 1000 |
| **Dampness** | 0.99 | 0.85 | 0.92 | 1000 |
| **No Defect** | 0.95 | 0.92 | 0.94 | 1000 |
| **Paint Peel Off** | 0.88 | 0.89 | 0.89 | 1000 |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **Accuracy** |  |  | 0.91 | 4000 |
| **macro avg** | 0.92 | 0.91 | 0.91 | 4000 |
| **weighted avg** | 0.92 | 0.91 | 0.91 | 4000 |

**Table 1:** Classwise metrics report

**3. Confusion matrix:** We can see that the values of true positive are very good. Out of 1000 test images per class approximately 900 images per class are identified correctly.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Predicted→ Actual↓** | **Crack** | **Dampness** | **No Defect** | **Paint Peel Off** |
| **Crack** | 973 | 1 | 1 | 25 |
| **Dampness** | 83 | 852 | 26 | 39 |
| **No Defect** | 21 | 0 | 920 | 59 |
| **Pain Peel Off** | 82 | 7 | 18 | 893 |

**Table 2:** Confusion matrix

**4. Prediction time:** Prediction time is 12 ms per frame and 10 predictions are made per frame for 720p videos.

**5. Comparison between transfer learning model and our model:** We cannot compare the output of transfer learning with our model because our problem is not similar to the problem of transfer learning model.

**6. Comparison between available models and our model:** Available models are binary classifiers and our model multi-label classifier. Available classifier has accuracy up to 98% and can only classify 2 classes while our model has accuracy of 91% but can classify 4 classes.

# 

# Future Scope:

1. Current dataset consist of four classes, classes can be increase by identifying more defects and the variety of defect can be increased. Also the model can used for visual inspection of other infrastructures by increasing the classes.

2.Current dataset has 5000images per class. By doing more survey we can increase the images count and by using a good camera we can increase the image quality.

3. As of now we are predicting result on a recorded video. In future we can apply it to a live video.

# Conclusion:

We have generated dataset with 4 classes (crack, dampness, paint peel-off, plain wall) and each class has 5000 images. We tried testing our dataset using ResNet-50 model but validation accuracy was not good. Then we made our CNN model which gave us a validation accuracy of 91% which is less than the existing models but our model can classify more classes as compared to the existing models. Precision for crack, dampness, plain wall and paint peel-off, is 84%, 99%, 95% and 88%. Recall is 97%, 85%, 92%, 89%. F1-score is 90%, 92%, 94%, 89%.

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